

## **Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12 with the following:

--Fig. 4 represents a nucleic acid sequence of the 5' region of aspen cellulose synthase gene including the promoter region and the 5' portion of the coding sequence [SEQ ID NO: 3] and the peptide sequence deduced from the coding sequence [SEQ ID NO: 6].--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 20 with the following:

--Polynucleotides that hybridize under conditions of low, medium, and high stringency to SEQ ID NOS: 1 and 4, and their respective coding portions are also within the scope of the invention. Preferably, the polynucleotide that hybridizes to any of SEQ ID NOS: 1 and 4, or their respective coding portions, is about the same length as that sequence, for example, not more than about 10 to about 20 nucleotides longer or shorter. In another embodiment of the invention, the hybridizable polynucleotide is at least 1500 nucleotides long, preferably at least 2500 nucleotides long and most preferably at least 3000 nucleotides long. In yet another embodiment, the hybridizable polynucleotide comprises the UDP-glucose binding domain as found in SEQ ID NO: 1 or 4, or at least the conserved region QVLRW [SEQ ID NO: 7]. Most preferably, the hybridizable polynucleotide has a UDP-glucose binding activity.--